

Quiz/Worksheet: Understanding Dillon's Rule

[Answer Key]

1. Why did the General Assembly create "shires" in Virginia in 1634?
The centralized government in England could no longer meet the needs of the colony's growing population and needs.
2. A charter is to a city as the Constitution is to the federal government.
3. Give two reasons Judge Dillon so greatly distrusted local governments:
1) He thought qualified people rarely held local office.
2) Many city governments were corrupt and inefficient.
4. If Dillon's Rule is the term for state control of local government, then the opposite of Dillon's Rule (local control of local government) is best described as municipal home rule.
5. Place the following states on a continuum dealing with the two terms in question #4:
Kentucky, Missouri, Virginia, North Carolina, Kansas

Dillon's Rule					Home Rule
<u>Virginia</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Kansas</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>	

6. In what year did the General Assembly in Richmond consider reversing Dillon's Rule?
1969
7. Give at least one reason why the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties opposed the proposed changes to the Dillon Rule (refers to question #6).
1) They thought the General Assembly had been sufficiently responsive to their needs.
2) The Uniform Charters Act already granted local governments what some thought was near home rule.
3) There was fear of the unknown.
4) There was fear that the General Assembly would "get into the mode of denying powers."
8. Identify the first American city to hire a city manager. Staunton, Virginia.
9. According to the author, what has replaced old-fashioned "boss" management in most cities?
professional management
10. What is the current (as of the time the article was written) position of the Virginia Municipal League regarding Dillon's Rule?
The League now feels it is time to reverse the rule.